

'Greystoke' injects realism in Tarzan

Ed Brackett

Review

There are three things in life about which one can be certain:

- Death
- Taxes and
- A schlock Hollywood remake of *Tarzan*, the *Ape Man* every decade or so.

In fact, Edgar Rice Burroughs' legendary vine-swinging endured comic-book treatment by MGM and others for over half a century now. See *Tarzan* beat his chest and holler real loud. See *Tarzan* beat up a pygmy tribe. See *Tarzan* play footsie with Jane.

The latest entry into this jungle genre is *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes*. Unlike its predecessors, however, this *Tarzan* movie makes great effort to avoid the "Me Tarzan, you Jane" syndrome.

Directing his second film, Hugh Hudson (*Chariots of Fire*) was determined to bring some realism back to the legend of *Tarzan*. He succeeds for a number of reasons.

The script, by Michael Austin and Robert Towne, is closely based on Burroughs' original novel and steers clear of the usual stereotypes — cute li'l ol' Cheetah, for example, is nowhere to be found in *this* remake.

Good acting also contributes to the realism of *Greystoke*. The late Ralph Richardson, in his last film role as the liberal-minded Earl of Greystoke, and newcomer Christopher Lambert, in the title role, lend authenticity to their characters.

The supporting cast, consisting of such *Chariots of Fire*

alums as Ian Holm, Nigel Davenport and Ian Charleson, is excellent — especially Holm as the Belgian hunter who discovers *Tarzan* living in the rain forests of Cameroon.

Hudson himself contributes subtle, polished direction, but it is *Greystoke's* cinematography that stands out. John Alcott, Stanley Kubrick's right-hand man in 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, *A Clockwork Orange* and *Barry Lyndon*, manages to create elegant visions of two completely different worlds: the naturalistic one, represented by the rain forest in which *Tarzan* is raised by apes (chimps, actually); and the materialistic one, represented by England's fictional Greystoke castle, of which *Tarzan* is an heir.

For all its realism and spectacular photography, though, *Greystoke* just isn't all that exciting. The story of *Tarzan* as told by Hudson and company lacks a certain dramatic flair and "zip" in general. The whole thing comes off looking like a static, clinical documentary of sorts.

Perhaps *Greystoke's* biggest problem is that it tries to cover too many bases in two hours' time. First, we see a shipwreck off the African coast, which forces Jack and Alice Clayton (Paul Geoffrey and Cheryl Campbell) to take refuge in the nearby virgin rain forest. Alice bears a son, John. Then we see chimps attack and kill Jack and Alice. The chimps adopt the orphaned John as their own.

Then we see John/Tarzan learning the chimp language as he grows into adulthood. Then we see *Tarzan's* discovery of "civilized" man. Then we see *Tarzan* adapting to human ways.

And so on. The film, still without much of a plot, is halfway over at this point.

All things considered, *Greystoke* is at least mildly interesting. Hudson, Towne and Austin deserve a great deal of credit for breathing new, authentic life into an all-too-often ersatz *Tarzan*. And Hugh Hudson has proven himself a director worth watching.

Potential customers drawn to shop by the smell of its loaves of fresh bread

By MARYMELDA HALL
Staff Writer

The Bread Shop at 411 West Franklin Street doesn't need flashy signs or gimmicks to attract customers. The irresistible aroma of freshly baked bread is advertisement enough.

Owner George Lawrence opened the Bread Shop in 1976 because, as employee Stephanie Alexander explained, "It's hard to find good bread around here. People come in from all over the state, buy 10 or 12 loaves at a time, and take it home and freeze it."

The breads and sweets are deliciously displayed in the small lavender front room of the shop. The door behind the counter gives customers a glimpse of the huge ovens and mixing equipment in the back of the store.

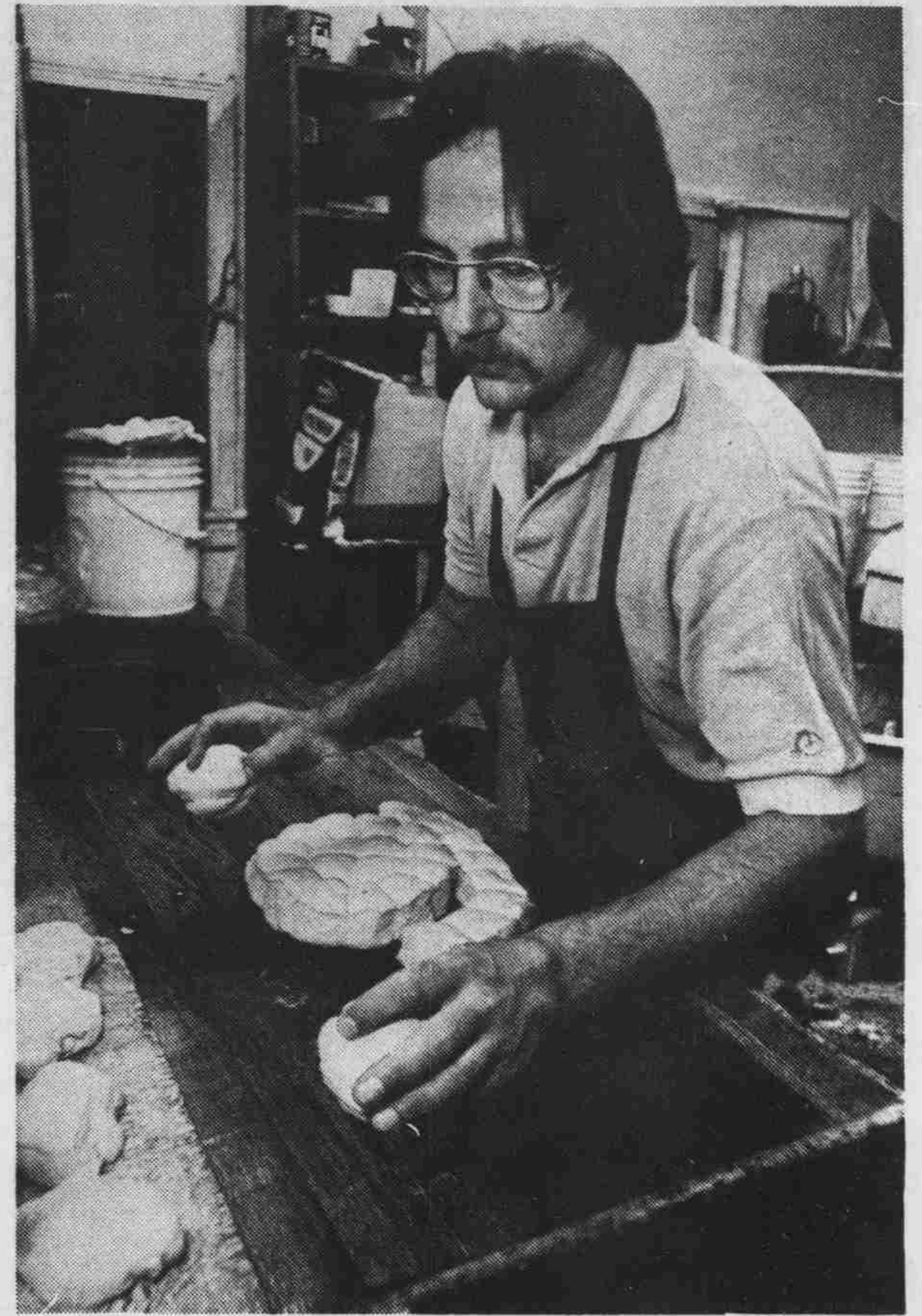
"The ingredients in the bread are organically grown, and the flour contains no preservatives," Alexander said. The flour, which comes from Lindley Mills in Graham and Mapelhurst in Charlotte, has recently been tested for EDB, she continued. None was found.

The bread is baked fresh every day, with most of it made in the early hours of the morning. The ovens are on around the clock, and each one holds an average of 96 loaves. Lawrence, along with two other bakers, turn out a wide variety of bread including Wheatberry Raisin, Black Russian, and the most popular, Sunflower.

"We sell a lot to area restaurants, items like subs, snails, and French rolls," Alexander said. This restaurant list includes La Residence, Breadman's, the Carolina Coffee Shop and Pyewacket, just to name a few.

Sometimes the Bread Shop's bread is eaten by real piggy sorts. "Bread more than four days old is considered throw-away bread. So people with pigs and chickens just come and pick it up to use as feed," Alexander explained.

The Bread Shop also sells sweets concocted by Jane Oldham. Cookies, brownies, cinnamon bread, and her own creation of almond tarts fill the glass counters and are tempting enough to ruin even the most dedicated dieter. "The brownies are great for true chocolate addicts," Alexander said with a smile. "The



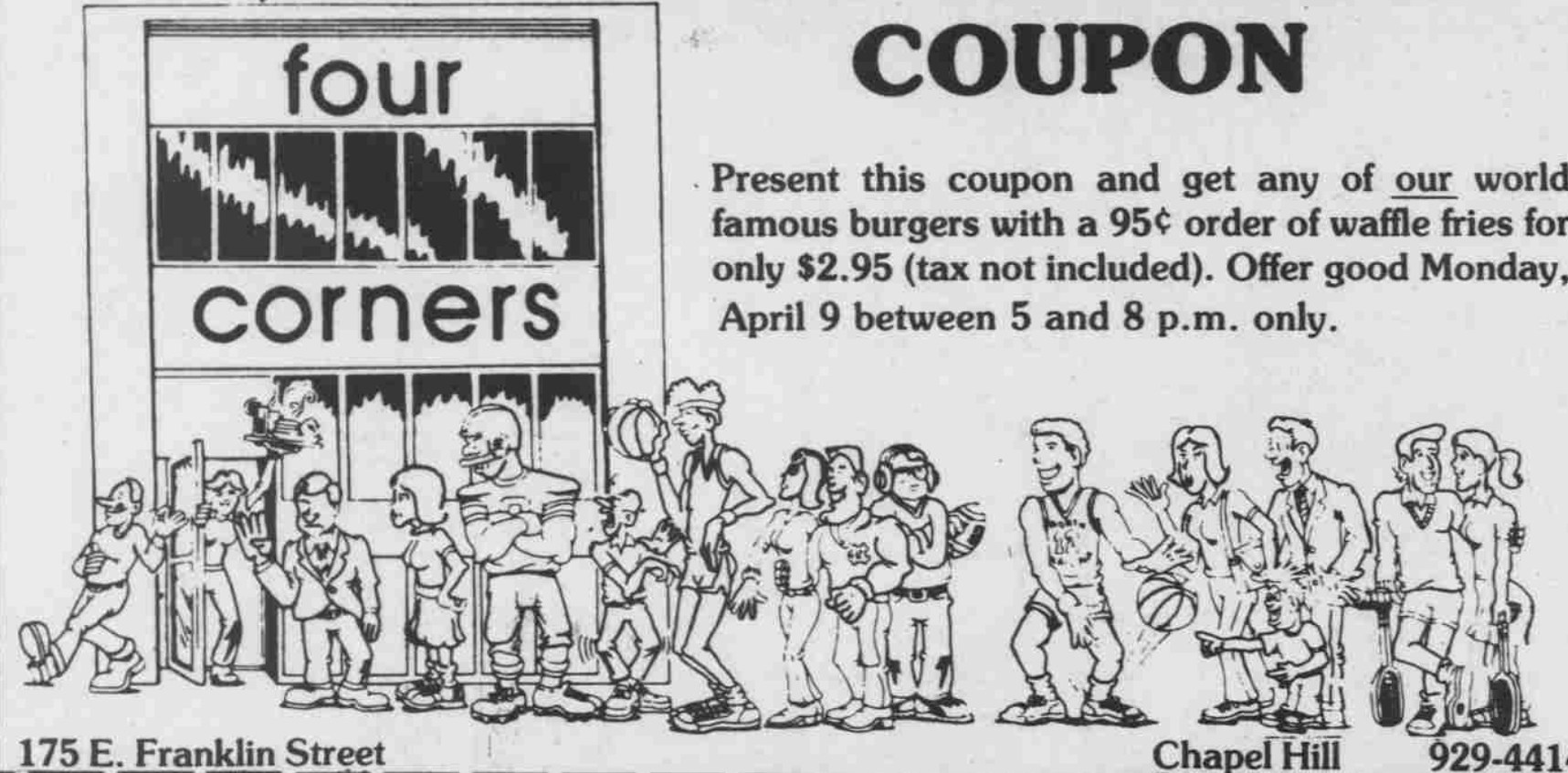
Richard Sides, a baker at the Bread Shop, mixes dough in tasty ways ...The shop is good enough to provide bread for area restaurants

Sunflower Raisin Spice cookies have a following of their own."

Bread Shop fans will soon be able to satisfy their appetites on the east end of Franklin Street as well. "We just bought

Thell's Bakery, and we're going to turn that into another shop," Alexander said. The name of the new store will be Grumps, but anyone catching a whiff of baking bread can't help but smile.

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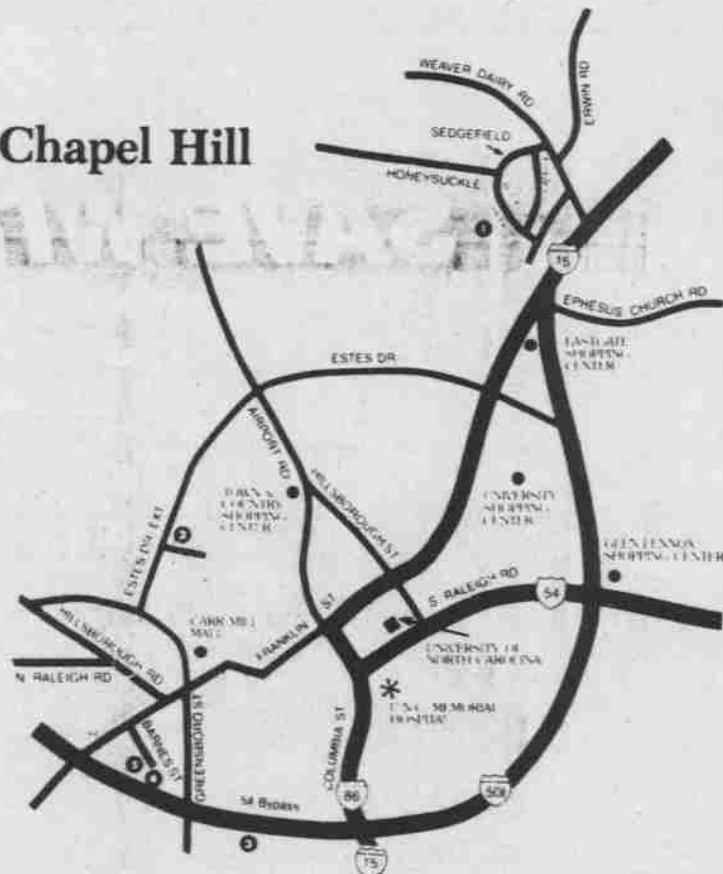
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